

Climate Change – Can We do Anything to Change it? Attitudes in Two Continents

Dr. Quentin Duroy, Denison University, Economics Department*

Dr. Christina Marouli, DERE - The American College of Greece, Environmental
Studies Department*

Climate change is considered a significant environmental problem of our age. Much research has been done showing the connection of human activities with climate change evolution. However, as literature shows, this knowledge does not directly relate with changes in attitudes or daily practices.

In this paper, the authors will present the results of a piece of research that aims to assess climate change perceptions among undergraduate students at two American-style Liberal Arts colleges located in Ohio, USA and in Athens, Greece. Data will be collected with the use of a questionnaire. The survey has been designed to evaluate students' knowledge of the causes of climate change and their beliefs in the need for individual actions to minimize its impacts. The survey will yield comparative data from two populations within similar institutional settings but in different cultural contexts. Through their survey, the authors will analyze the impact of socio-economic and demographic variables (including but not limited to social class, ethnicity, age, year in college, geographic place of upbringing) upon climate change perceptions. The international data will also permit the authors to assess the impact of the cultural context on students' responses to issues of climate change.

Ultimately this paper seeks to highlight some factors that contribute to heterogeneity and/or conformity in individual views on what might be one of the central geopolitical issues of the 21st century.

* Authors are in alphabetical order. The presentation will be made by Dr. Christina Marouli.